



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SW
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/641,379	08/14/2003	Yunbiao Shen	D5437	1247
30409	7590	02/23/2005	EXAMINER	
INTERNATIONAL ENGINE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COMPANY 4201 WINFIELD ROAD P.O. BOX 1488 WARRENVILLE, IL 60555			MC CALL, ERIC SCOTT	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			2855	

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/641,379	SHEN, YUNBIAO
	Examiner Eric S. McCall	Art Unit 2855

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 November 2004.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-11, 13, 14 and 16-20 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 12 and 15 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 12 June 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/14/03.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR EVALUATING
FUEL INJECTORS

NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

In response to the Applicant's amendment dated Nov. 29, 2004.

EXAMINER OF RECORD

The Applicant is notified that the Examiner of Record has changed in the present application. The corresponding contact information is provided at the end of this office action.

DRAWINGS

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the reference character "401" which is not mentioned in the description.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the Examiner, the Applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

CLAIMS

35 U.S.C. § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention because claim 3 sets forth that "the chamber is a combustion chamber". However, the Applicant's disclosure (paragraph 16) sets forth that the chamber only "simulates" a combustion chamber. Thus, a contradiction exists.

35 U.S.C. § 102

In view of the Applicant's remarks, the rejection of claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-12, and 14-18 under 35 USC 102(e) over Itoyama et al. (2002/0173898) as set forth in the previous office action (Sep. 02, 2004) has been withdrawn.

However, the following now applies:

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Wlodarczyk et al. (6,622,549).

With regards to claim 1, Wlodarczyk et al. teach an apparatus (Fig. 1) comprising: a fuel injector inherently operably connected to a fluid supply system and having a nozzle (10) with a fluid cavity (18);

at least one discharge port (bottom of fuel injector in Fig. 1) disposed in the nozzle (10); an orifice (16) disposed in the nozzle; and

a pressure sensor (12) adjacent to the orifice, wherein fluid in the fluid cavity (18) is in fluid communication with the pressure sensor, such that the pressure sensor measures fluid pressure (col. 3, lines 36-40).

With regard to claims 2-4, the nozzle of the prior art inherently is mounted to and protrudes into a chamber for the receiving of fluid from the discharge port as claimed because the nozzle of the prior art's fuel injector inherently protrudes into a combustion chamber (thus the reasoning for the combustion pressure sensor, 14) wherein the combustion chamber receives fluid discharged from the fuel injector via the discharge port.

With regards to claim 7, the prior art inherently teaches the fluid supply system comprising a fluid tank and a fuel pump because the prior art teaching centers around a fuel injection system for an internal combustion engine, and fuel injected internal combustion engines inherently have a fuel tank and a fuel pump for supplying fuel to the fuel injected system.

With regards to claim 8, the pressure sensor of the prior art has attached thereto a monitoring device as claimed (col. 3, lines 48-55).

With regards to claim 10, Wlodarczyk et al. teach a fuel injector (Fig. 1) comprising: a nozzle (10) having at least one discharge port (bottom of fuel injector in Fig. 1); a needle (20) slideably mounted inside the fuel injector and the nozzle;

a fluid cavity (18) disposed in the nozzle (10); and
a pressure sensor (12) arranged to measure pressure in the fluid cavity (col. 3, lines 36-40).

With regards to claim 11, the prior art discloses an orifice (16) disposed along an outer boundary of the fluid cavity (18) and disposed in the nozzle (10), wherein the pressure sensor (12) is disposed in the orifice (Fig. 1).

With regards to claim 14, Wlodarczyk et al. teach a method comprising the steps of:
charging a fuel injector with fluid (ie. fuel flowing into the fuel injector);
discharging the fluid from at least one discharge port (bottom of Fig. 1) in a nozzle (10) of the fuel injector;
communicating fluid to a pressure sensor (12) through a first orifice (16) disposed in the nozzle (10); and
measuring fluid pressure near the at least one discharge port with the pressure sensor (12).

With regard to claims 16 and 18, the prior art suggests the claimed subject matter thereof because the fuel discharged from the fuel injector is contained to the combustion chamber.

35 U.S.C. § 103

In view of the Applicant's remarks, the rejection of claims 9, 13, and 20 under 35 USC 103(a) over Itoyama et al. (2002/0173898) as set forth in the previous office action (Sep. 02, 2004) has been withdrawn.

And, the rejection of claims 6 and 19 under 35 USC 103(a) over Itoyama et al. in view of Schmidt et al. as set forth in the said previous office action has been withdrawn.

However, the following now applies:

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 9, 13, 17, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wlodarczyk et al. (6,622,549).

With regard to claims 9, 13, and 20, Wlodarczyk et al. teach a pressure sensor (12) but fail to specifically teach the material from which the pressure sensor is made and thus fail to teach the pressure sensor being a piezoelectric quartz transducer as claimed.

Nonetheless, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art armed with said teaching to use a piezoelectric quartz transducer pressure sensor as the pressure sensor in the Wlodarczyk et al. teaching.

The motivation being that a piezoelectric quartz transducer is a well known and commonly used type of pressure sensor and because of it's reliability and durability would be appropriate for being used in the environment as set forth by the Applicant.

With regards to claim 17, Wlodarczyk et al. fail to teach controlling the operating pressure of the chamber as claimed.

However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art armed with said teaching to control the chamber operating pressure as claimed.

The motivation being that the chamber as claimed reads on an engine combustion chamber of the type disclosed by Wlodarczyk et al. and one having ordinary skill in the art would have reason to control the operating pressure in an engine combustion chamber because if combustion chamber pressure was not maintained improper engine operation would result.

Claims 5, 6, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wlodarczyk et al. (6,622,549) in view of Bunch, Jr. et al. (5,000,043).

With regards to claim 5, Wlodarczyk et al. fail to teach a pressure control valve as claimed.

However, Bunch, Jr. et al. do teach such a pressure control valve (30).

As a result, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art armed with said teachings to include the pressure control valve as taught by Bunch, Jr. et al. with the teachings of Wlodarczyk et al.

The motivation being in order to control the pressure of the chamber for the proper testing of the fuel injector.

With regard to claims 6 and 19, Wlodarczyk et al. fail to teach a flow-metering unit as claimed, but Bunch, Jr. et al. do teach such a flow-metering unit. Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art armed with said teachings to include the flow-metering unit as taught by Bunch, Jr. et al. with the teachings of Wlodarczyk et al.

The motivation being in order to control the pressure and flow of the chamber for the proper testing of the fuel injector.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 12 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims because the prior art fails to teach or suggest an orifice in the needle as claimed in combination with the remaining limitations of each respective claim.

CITED DOCUMENTS

The Applicant's attention is directed to the enclosed "PTO-892" form for the prior art made of record but not relied upon.

CONCLUSION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Eric S. McCall whose telephone number is (571) 272-2183.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Eric S. McCall
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2855
Feb. 17, 2005